



September

Cholesterol Education
Month

National Suicide Prevention
Awareness Month

Healthy Aging Month

National Child Obesity
Month

World Alzheimer's Month

9/2 Labor Day

9/11 Patriot Day

9/24 National Voter
Registration Day

DHS | Division of Developmental
Disabilities Services

8TH ANNUAL

FALL FOOD & CRAFT FAIR

Come out to support crafters
with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Items include handmade rugs, magnets, artwork, wreaths,
and more! All proceeds go to artists who made the items.

OCTOBER 4
11 A.M.-2 P.M.



**FOOD TRUCKS • ARTISTS • FUN
SHOPPING • HAND MADE CRAFTS**

For more information, please contact Yvette Swift
at yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov

Meet Tanyaka Conway, AHDC Assistant Superintendent

Congratulations to Tanyaka Conway on your promotion to Arkadelphia Human Development Center's new Assistant Superintendent! Tanyaka began her career working in direct care at AHDC on May 4, 1988. She most recently served 6 years as the Residential Services Program Administrator. Tanyaka is client service-minded and finds great joy in working with the individuals we serve and building future leaders at AHDC. She brings great knowledge, experience, and heart to our campus! She has an infectious laugh and she is a joy to work with. AHDC is thrilled to have her serve as the Assistant Superintendent! Tanyaka has two adult children, Diamond and Donovan. In her spare time, she spends time with her granddaughter Averii.

~Submitted by Kerry Gambill, AHDC Superintendent



AHDC at Beyond the Borders Annual Conference



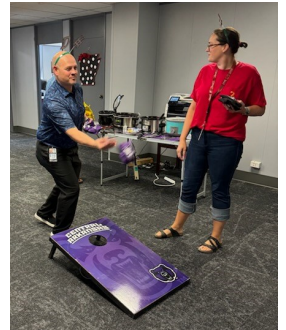
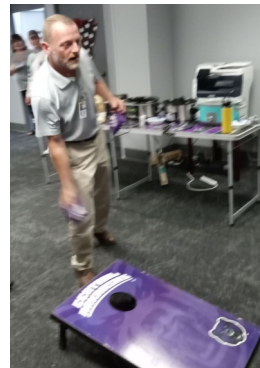
Tanyaka Conway, Rosby Summerville, Julie Howard, Jamia Walker, Kerry Gambill, Buffie Beard, and Micheal Nelson



Mark Wargo (SEAHDC Superintendent), Tammy Benbrook (DDS Assistant Director Superintendent Liaison), Kerry Gambill (AHDC Superintendent), and Sarah Murphy (CHDC Superintendent)

DDS Football Tailgate

Food, fun, and games! Thanks to everyone who participated in the tailgate, including the building electrician! Teamwork makes the dream work! Although we may have different dreams, we're on the same team. **#TEAMDDS**



Upcoming events at CHDC

Conway Human Development Center
Volunteer Council's
42nd Annual Walk-A-Thon

"PINK OUT"



RUN/WALK 5K

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024
@ CHDC PARK

Join us for a day of fun and wear your favorite shade of PINK
to honor all of those affected by Breast Cancer.

Registration will begin at 7a.m.
Walk will start at 8a.m.
You may pre-register anytime before by contacting
Volunteer Services.

\$40.00 Registration Fee
(includes event shirt, a door prize, & refreshments)

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Prizes will be given
A prize will also be given to the individual raising the most money!
(turned in by the deadline)

For more information you can call Volunteer Services @
501.329.6851 ext. 319/370



FUNDRAISER



Come enjoy delicious, life-saving tacos

Tuesday, September 10th | 11am-9pm

Mention the fundraiser when ordering and
20% will be donated back to

CHDC Athletic Fund

Participating Location: Conway | 716 Oak Street



**Please join the Jonesboro HDC in
celebrating our 50th Anniversary!**

Friday, October 11th, 2024

Beginning at 1:00 pm

in the Sensory Garden

**** Check in at the Administration Building ****

Jonesboro Human Development Center

4701 Colony Drive

Jonesboro, AR 72404

**** Refreshments to follow after the ceremony ****

JHDC recognizes We HEART award recipients



Zach Brown's smile stretched from ear to ear as he walked up to the stage where a staff member just announced he had won the 2nd quarter We HEART award for direct care. He said being selected by his peers was a great feeling. "It warms my soul," he said. "It's nice to know I am making a difference." Zach has worked at the JHDC for more than a year, and his responsibilities here are quite different from his previous career at a factory. Zachary explained that before he started working at the Center, he spent six years working as an ingredient handler, forklift driver, and machine operator. He said that when COVID 19 hit, he ended up having to do two to three people's jobs in addition to his own with no increase in compensation. "My brother recommended coming out here since I love helping people," he said. The residents at JHDC love that Zach helps them. "They understand I want better for them," he said while grinning. "The residents are why I'm here." When asked about how he maintains a positive attitude when life gets tough, he explained that he thinks of others as a reason to be optimistic. "The vibe I give can really mess up the vibe of the next person," he explained. If he ever needs to get rid of some frustration, Zach said he will sweat it out with a rigorous workout routine. But if he is not in the mood to burn some calories, you may find him with a pencil in hand drawing. Zach acted shy when asked about his plans for the \$100 gift that comes with his award. "It's probably going toward bills. I'm just going to be honest with you. I just moved into a new apartment."

~Submitted by Ashleigh King, JHDC Staff Development/ Administrative Analyst



Amy Baker walked up to the We HEART Pep Rally announcer with tears in her eyes. The look on her face showed an equal mix of confusion and happiness as she received the 2nd quarter We HEART award for non-direct care. "I just love being here," she said with a grin. "It's like a sense of family." Amy is no stranger to tough jobs. From working with adults with disabilities to investigations of alleged child abuse, Amy never selected a profession that was a cakewalk. When she lived in Utah, she investigated severe child abuse cases for ten years. "It takes its toll on you," she explained about her decision to switch up her career. Amy then began working in the memory unit of an assisted living home. She explained that even though it was also difficult working with dementia patients, being able to spend time with them and relive moments in their lives made the job worth it. But unknown to Amy at the time, a journey to Arkansas loomed on the horizon. She and her husband applied for jobs over here and the one she applied for was none other than at JHDC. "I needed a new start," she said of her decision to apply. "Jesus had a hand in that." Between her faith and the people at JHDC, Amy says her life is full. "I enjoy being a part of something that seems to make a difference," she said. "I feel like I have a family here." When asked about how she maintains a positive attitude, Amy said she looks toward her faith and within herself. "Trust in the Lord and don't sweat the little stuff," she said. "It will all work out. You can choose your own attitude." When asked about her plans for the \$100 gift that comes with her award, Amy was quick with her answer. "I'm probably going to pamper myself," she said with a smile while looking at her fingernails.

~Submitted by Ashleigh King, JHDC Staff Development/ Administrative Analyst

On special assignment...



Accurate depiction of “other duties as assigned” as displayed by DDS Director Jennifer Brezée, DHS Medicaid Specialty Populations Director Melissa Weatherton, Avis Lane, and Brittney Hughes teaming up to paint the DDS Executive Suite. Great job ladies!



DHS/DDS Years of Service Recognitions

A new feature has been asked for and will be added to DDSPEAKS. We will now include years of service recognition beginning with 1 year and following in increments of 5 (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.) If you **do not** want your name listed, please email: Yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov. The feature will officially start with the October edition.

(Pictured: DDS Director Jennifer Brezée presents Years of Service certificates to staff in central office.)



Heather Hardenberger
DD Specialist
30 Years



Yvette Swift
Program Administrator
20 Years



Comments, Suggestions, Q&A

Please let us know what you would like to see featured. Send all inquiries to Yvette Swift @ yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov